

Historic Preservation

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Preserving Historic Boulder

A Community Partnership

This video was funded by the Department of the Interior and the Colorado Historical Society.

[Click here to view the video.](#)

To view the video you will need to have RealVideo player installed on your system.

NEW! Draft University Place Design Guidelines (3.62 Mb)

The Landmarks Board will be taking public comment regarding these guidelines at the July 5th, 2006 meeting.

Contact Chris Meschuk at (303) 441-4293 for more information.

NEW! Historic Preservation/Environmental Sustainability Integration Project Resolving conflicting situations between historic preservation and energy efficiency

[View Potential Changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance](#)

[View Information on the Historic Depot Relocation Project](#)

In the early 1970's, Boulder residents reacted to the loss of several important buildings with a grassroots effort aimed at providing a legal mechanism to protect the city's significant historic resources. In 1974, the Boulder Historic Preservation Ordinance was passed. With the City Council adoption of this code, Boulder became one of the first cities in Colorado with the authority to designate and prevent the demolition or destruction of historical, architectural, and cultural resources considered valuable to the community as a whole. Today, more than 30 communities in Colorado have similar historic preservation ordinances, many of which are based on Boulder's model.

Historic preservation is about recognizing and protecting something - an older building or neighborhood or a piece of landscape, for instance - because of its importance to the community. This might mean saving a building because it has architectural value, educational value, or because it links us to characters or events from the past. It's not just for elaborate, high-style buildings - the small, simple homes of early pioneers have just as much to offer and are among the most endangered. It also means recognizing that many of our old buildings still have plenty of life left in them. Whether they continue to be used the way they were originally intended or are reused in some new "adaptive" way, there are environmental, economic and social benefits to preserving them.

Preservation does not, however, mean a static environment. The preservation ordinance provides criteria for alterations, allowing our historic buildings and neighborhoods to adapt and change with the times, while protecting their historic character.

Buildings are sometimes referred to as timeless, as if this were the highest praise one could bestow. That is nonsense. The best buildings...are precisely of their time. That is part of the pleasure of looking at buildings from the past. They reflect old values and bygone virtues and vices...That is why old buildings are precious, that is why we fight to preserve them. It is not only because we think them beautiful, or significant. It is also because they remind us of who we once were. And who we might be again, for old buildings also inspire."

Witold Rybczynski

The Look of Architecture, 2001

For more information contact Planning & Development Services/Long Range Planning at 303-441-1880 or e-mail at boulderplandevlop@bouldercolorado.gov.